

I am appalled to learn that Sinclair Broadcasting is making the decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is an abuse of the public trust in public media, and in the FCC, the government organization we trust to protect the people from indecency, untruth, propaganda, and one-sided political agendas. To allow a single corporation to wield so powerful a voice at so important a time as a presidential election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

All media companies are obligated by law to serve the public interest, but it is patently wrong when they are allowed to unilaterally determine who should win an election. I fear that such an organization is not concerned with a community's well-being, but only a part of that community that will tend to benefit from a shared political end. How can the FCC grant a license to a company/station when this kind of self-serving programming is put on the air, with no attempt to address the views/needs of other significant portions of the viewing public?

I understand that we all have biases, and that the operation of a business is affected by these views. Unfortunately, too many people accept what they see on TV as the gospel truth, and when that programming consists of a politically motivated diatribe without a counterbalanced viewpoint offered, that programming becomes powerful propaganda!

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Michael Porter